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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TO: English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Coordinators, Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) District Coordinators and Title III Coordinators

FROM: Marilyn Roberts, Director
Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability

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SUBJECT: ELPA Information Update

Last spring, the State of Michigan implemented the first statewide English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). The ELPA was administered to all English language learners enrolled in grades K-12. The term *English language learner*, or ELL, has been adopted by the State of Michigan to refer to students who are Limited English Proficient.

The following information provides an update regarding the availability of reports from last spring, the development of an ELPA Initial Screening for use with new students this fall, and administration dates for next spring's annual ELPA. For additional information related to this new assessment, please access the OEAA website, www.michigan.gov/elpa.

ELPA Results for Spring 2006

The results of last spring's assessment will be available for schools and districts to begin using prior to September 1. Reports will be released in two phases. The first phase will include PDFs of individual student results, student labels, class/group lists, and parent reports. The second phase will include all summary reports for schools, districts, ISDs and the State. There are three types of summary reports: demographic report, summary by domain, and overall summary. Printed copies of the ELPA reports will also be mailed. A guide to the ELPA reports will be included.

Reports will identify student performance according to four performance levels: proficient, high intermediate, low intermediate, and basic. Results also show areas of strength or weakness by domain. An ELPA research and score file will also be disseminated to each district. The results for ELPA will be used annually for the Title III federal reporting of ELL student progress in acquiring English language skills.

ELPA Initial Screening

As your schools begin to open their doors this fall, new students will enroll. Part of the enrollment process includes the Home Language Survey. This survey, which is a

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Title VI requirement, asks the following two questions:

1. Is your child's native tongue a language other than English?
2. Is the primary language used in your child's home or environment a language other than English?

If the answer to either question is "yes", the school assesses the student's level of English language proficiency to determine if the student is eligible for Title III services. (Please note: The assessment for eligibility is to take place for all schools, whether or not there is currently a Title III program or funding for such services.)

An ELPA Initial Screening has been specially developed to assist schools with the assessment of these new students. The ELPA Initial Screening may also be used as the standards-based English language proficiency assessment for students who have recently arrived to the United States.

This assessment is short—approximately 10 points per domain—and can be scored at the time of testing. Individual student reports and class/group results can be generated as students are scored. The results of the ELPA Initial Screening are linked to last spring's assessment, allowing ease of score comparisons. Since the ELPA Initial Screening is shorter than the annual assessment administered last spring, three performance levels are available: proficient, intermediate, and basic.

Like last spring's assessment, this fall's ELPA Initial Screening contains four sections: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The ELPA Initial Screening is not timed. The first three assessment sections can be administered in small group settings if you have larger numbers of new students. The fourth section, Speaking, is individually administered to students. ELLs take the assessments that match their grades of enrollment.

Training for the ELPA Initial Screening

Training to administer and score the ELPA Initial Screening will be provided by teleconference at Wayne RESA on the afternoon of August 31. This session will assist school staff in all aspects of giving the assessment to students, including the preparation of materials, strategies for guiding administration, and accurate scoring and reporting of results. A flyer announcing this training session is enclosed.

DVDs, and video stream versions of the training will be available to educators who are either unable to attend or are not located in close proximity to a satellite site.

ELPA Administration Dates for Spring 2007

The administration dates for next spring's ELPA are March 19-April 26, 2007. Delivery of all ELPA assessment materials is scheduled to be completed by March 1, 2007.